

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 CU-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 /034 W

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R 150528Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4778

UNCLAS KATHMANDU 1594

NEA/INS FOR TELLEEN; L/EB FOR TRIMBLE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, NP

SUBJ: BICENTENNIAL EVEREST EXPEDITION

1. ADVANCE REQUIRED TO OPEN ACCOUNT AT NEPAL BANK, AS WELL AS TO COVER LOCAL PURCHASES. PASANG KAME WILL PROBABLY BE EMPLOYED FROM APRIL 27 - MAY 15 AT DAILY RATE OF 25 RUPEES TO WORK ON EXPEDITION REQUIREMENTS. MOUNTAIN TRAVEL WILL ADVANCE FUNDS BUT SUGGEST TRIMBLE SEND CHECK FOR \$500 TO \$1,000 C/O CHENEY.

2. OXYGEN. ROAD SHIPMENT FROM DELHI TO KATHMANDU TAKES ABOUT TEN DAYS, ALTHOUGH IN CASE OF OXYGEN PERMIT MUST BE OBTAINED FROM INDIA EXPLOSIVES OFFICE WHICH WOULD DELAY SHIPMENT FEW DAYS. THERE IS NO GUARANTEE HOW MUCH OXYGEN AVAILABLE HERE, SINCE IT DEPENDS ON CONSUMPTION OF CURRENT HIMALAYAN EXPEDITIONS, BUT AVERAGE COST IS ABOUT \$30 PER BOTTLE. SUGGEST YOU ORDER WHAT YOU THINK NECESSARY, AND WE WOULD ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN RESERVE FROM LOCAL SOURCES.

3. LETTER ON RADIO FACILITIES HAS BEEN FORWARDED WITH TELLEEN WHO WILL BE IN DEPARTMENT APRIL 19.

4. AS FOR ACCREDITATION OF US CORRESPONDENT, NEWS CAN BE SENT FROM EXPEDITION BUT ONLY BY RUNNER. THIS, DEPENDING ON DISTANCE TO BE COVERED, WOULD VARY FROM ONE TO TWELVE DAYS. THERE ARE NO SATELLITE FACILITIES IN
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NEPAL, BUT DIRECT TELEX LINKS WITH BOMBAY AND HONG

KONG ARE AVAILABLE. COST IS ROUGHLY \$10 PER THREE MINUTES TO LONDON. COST OF CORRESPONDENT WOULD BEST BE ABSORBED BY EXPEDITION AND CHARGED TO NEWSPAPER AT ABOUT \$15 PER DAY. PRIVATE TREKKING ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE IN KATHMANDU AT ROUGHLY SAME COST, ASSUMING MINIMUM GEAR PROVIDED (SLEEPING BAG, TENT, ETC.). MOUNTAIN TRAVEL SEES NO DIFFICULTY IN ACCLIMITIZATION OF REPORTER, NOR SPECIAL PROBLEMS FOR WOMAN. CORRESPONDENT WOULD BE ALLOWED TO MONITOR EXPEDITION COMMUNICATIONS TO AND FROM BASE CAMP, BUT MFA DOES REQUIRE THAT ANY NEWS INVOLVING SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF EXPEDITION AND ACCIDENTS BE RELAYED THROUGH THEM FOR DISTRIBUTION TO ALL NEWS SOURCES IN KATHMANDU. FURTHER DETIALS FOLLOW BY LETTER. EAVES

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